

rough message power will not be forgotten by our people.

In an article vehemently denouncing the Allies the *Handelblad* says: "We cannot think what our Government will do. Will it publish a protest refusing to give its approval to piracy and leave the matter as it is or will it make the best of a bad job and make an exchange of the Government's position away? If it is not exchanged will it request the Ministers of these piratical Powers to pack their trunks and depart? We should not lose sight of this."

"We do not know what the Government will do and would not wish to advise it. At such a moment it must be left to the Government's discretion to take that decision which is least harmful to the country and the people."

In the same article, however, the *Handelblad* admits that it is unfortunately true that Holland is the only northern neutral which has done nothing to combat German submarine methods. It attributes the Government's present position to the spirit which has dictated such an attitude.

The *Telegraph* advocates acceptance of the offer of the Entente Governments, adding:

"Holland's existence as a free and independent nation and the possession of its colonies are at stake. By choosing the right path the Government will be in a position to maintain the liberty of the nation or irrevocably deliver it to the mercy of Germany, which in its bid for world domination has long had evil eyes on Holland. The Dutch nation will not permit itself to be delivered over to the German Junkers."

It is impossible for Holland to give an affirmative answer to the Entente's proposals concerning Dutch ships, says the *Nieuwe Courant* of The Hague.

"It is an act of violence," it adds, "to which we are subjected by the rules of the ocean and nothing makes us so bitter as the attempt being made to base it on the so-called rule of international law—the antiquated and arbitrary law—which is in no way applicable here."

37 SHIPS HERE WILL FLY U. S. FLAG TO-DAY

Many of the Dutch Crews Expected to Remain.

Armed guards of the forces of Capt. Godfrey L. Carden, divisional commander of the Coast Guard Service and captain of the port of New York, for some time have been aboard the Dutch merchantmen detained in this harbor, seeing that there were no violations of neutrality. Capt. Carden is subject to the orders of Byron L. Norton, Collector of the Port, and after they had a conference yesterday they boarded a Coast Guard cutter and looked over a large number of the Dutch vessels at anchor in the bay and the Hudson. The Collector had nothing to say on his return about the method that would be pursued in taking formal possession of the Dutch tonnage.

It was learned that a careful inventory will be made of equipment, stores, bunker supply and cargoes before the vessels are taken over, probably on Monday. The *Telegraph* says that most of whom are members of the Dutch Naval Reserve, will be treated with great courtesy by the American officials. It adds that some of the Dutch crew members of the crews who may wish to go into the service of Uncle Sam aboard the ships will be permitted to do so, as many of them have been already taken over and used in service between America and West Indian and South American ports. It is not improbable that some of the Dutch crew members not belonging to the naval reserve of their country may take berth in their former ships under the Stars and Stripes.

There are in the harbor thirty-two Dutch steamships that will be transferred to American registry, exclusive of the new Holland-America liner *Nieuw Amsterdam*, which it is understood will have permission to return to Rotterdam under the flag of the Netherlands. The large majority of officers and crews of the newly acquired ships will be American citizens. Many of the sailors and men for the engine departments have completed recently intensive training aboard the training ship *Governor Dingy* and *Calvin* at Annapolis.

4,000 SEAMEN NEEDED.

Shipping Board Orders Immediate Enrollment of Crews.

Boston, March 18.—Officers of the Shipping Board recruiting service said to-night that they were devoting all their energies at present to obtaining 4,000 American seamen to man the eighty Dutch ships to be taken over by the United States.

Henry Howard, a director of recruiting, has sent out a call to all section chiefs of the navigation and engineering schools of the country and has requested them to report on deck and engine officers available for duty. He expressed confidence that there would be no difficulty in obtaining competent crews and men. Word was received from New York to-day that crews for fifteen ships had already been enlisted there.

BLAST NEAR PARIS KILLS 30.

Five Follows Explosion—Number Injured and 1,000 Homeless.

Paris, March 18 (delayed).—Two violent explosions to-day in a factory north of Paris caused the deaths of thirty persons and the injury of a large number, mostly slightly, according to an official announcement made to-night.

A number of wounded were carried away in motor trucks of the American army. American soldiers approached within a few hundred yards of the burning buildings and carried the injured across fields to vehicles waiting to move the victims to hospitals in Paris and the suburbs.

Firemen were unable to approach the burning factory nearer than 800 yards. All roofs and windows within a circumference of miles of the building were demolished. In every quarter of Paris windows were shattered and furniture overturned.

In a public school at Aubervilliers there was a panic and four girls died from fright. Nearly 1,000 persons are sheltered as the result of damage to their homes.

CAPT. LA GUARDIA INJURED.

New York Congressman and Aviator Hurt in Aerial Accident.

Rome, March 18.—Capt. Fiorenzo H. La Guardia of the American Flying Corps probably will be unable to address meetings at Turin and Genoa, as planned owing to injuries received in an aerial accident. The extent of his injuries is not yet known.

Capt. La Guardia, who represents the Fourteenth New York district in the House of Representatives, has been in Europe since late last year, principally in Italy. The American Congressman has addressed meetings in Milan and Rome, where he was received enthusiastically by the Italians.

Canada Licenses Paper Export.

Ottawa, Ont., March 18.—Official news appears in the *Canada Gazette* of an order in Council prohibiting the export of news print paper and wood pulp from Canada except under license.

Swiss Ask Indemnity for Ship.

Berne, March 18.—The Swiss Government has sent a note to the German Government demanding the return of a steamship for the destruction of the grain steamer *Sardinia*. The note also requests a careful investigation.

SPY SENDS SIGNALS WITHIN U. S. LINES

Flashes of Light Are Seen From a Window Facing the Enemy.

FOE'S TRENCHES RAIDED

American Troops in Lunville Sector, Heavily Shelled, Hold Captured Trenches.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 17 (delayed).—American intelligence officers report evidence leading to the conclusion that a spy may be at work within the American lines northwest of Toul. An American sentry saw flashes of a signal light early this morning from a window facing in the direction of the enemy lines. He fired through the window and dashed into the house, but failed to find any one. Four hours earlier some important telephone wires between the American lines were found to have been cut.

An American patrol entered the enemy trenches at one end of the sector last night and penetrated them for some distance without difficulty. Much valuable information was gathered. As they were about ready to return the enemy opened fire with a machine gun. The Americans hurled grenades, silencing the gun.

The raiders brought back with them a German rifle breech protected by a metal cover over the muzzle and a snap clip cover, both of which operate quickly and efficiently. Officers said it was the best thing of the kind they had ever seen for protecting rifles. The mechanism was turned over to the Intelligence Department with a recommendation that the attachment be furnished the American troops.

Enemy Works Bombarded.

Another patrol on the other end of the sector reported that the enemy first line was held strongly. While the raiders were inspecting the German positions the enemy fired at them several times with rifles and machine guns.

Our artillery bombarded effectively billets, troops and new enemy works at Lahaville, St. Disant, the village of Montec, Bickcourt, in the *Quatre de Reserve*, along the Pannes-Monard road, and a considerable body of troops northwest of Buxieres. They also hit a battery of gas projectors which had been set up in a double line of trenches.

American artillery again on Thursday night bombarded suspected gas projectors. Photographs taken later showed the complete destruction of their gunners.

The enemy has shelled various parts of our positions rather heavily, many gas shells being mixed with high explosive ones. There were indications that some of the enemy were trying to isolate one of our positions.

Several times during the day the air was crowded with airplanes and on one occasion the enemy sent a plane over the front at the same time. Airplanes from the rear of our lines maneuvered to get into a fight with the enemy machine guns, but they were unsuccessful. Anti-aircraft guns drove off a number of enemy machines and kept the others high in the air.

Mecklenburg Trench Still Held.

American troops in the Lunville sector have been subjected to fairly heavy bombardments during the last twenty-four hours, but have been able to hold the trench. Patrols at two points established contact with the enemy last night and early this morning. After brief firing the Germans retired.

PARIS LEAVES DENIED.

Comparatively Few Americans Now in French Capital.

PARIS, March 18.—The American uniform almost has disappeared from the boulevards of the French capital. The fact that the American soldier is not seen as much as during the last eleven months, and with the removal of the bulk of the railway transportation corps from Paris to a city in central France the number of American soldiers stationed in Paris will be reduced to a minimum.

The only soldiers coming to Paris on general leave are those belonging to railway and engineering regiments attached to the British army. Paris leave has been denied the officers and men of other units except in special cases, such as the presence of relatives here or urgent private business.

The central army post office base, the censor, the war risk insurance bureau, the medical depot, the *Ameliant* Troop and the depot quarters are also here, but the number of American soldiers permanently stationed in Paris has been reduced from several thousands to a few hundred.

The busiest American soldiers in Paris lately have been the ambulance men, who in addition to performing regular duties during the day are called out at night to remove persons wounded in German air raids. The press and public generally acknowledge and praise highly the help given by these men during the following Friday's explosion, when they saved many lives at the risk of their own.

70 RIFLES TO FREE 2 U. S. MEN.

China Negotiating With Bandits for Release of Engineers.

PEKING, March 18.—The two American engineers recently captured by brigands in northern Honan are being held for a ransom of seventy rifles. Representatives of the Government are carrying on negotiations with the bandits through missionaries, and it is believed the release of the Americans will soon be effected. They are E. J. Purcell, who comes from either Philadelphia or St. Paul, and G. A. Kyle of Portland, Ore.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The American

Location at Pekin has sent a Chinese negotiator to the northern Honan to negotiate with the brigands who are holding the two Americans for ransom.

The Nation's Honor Roll.

(CASUALTIES NEWLY REPORTED.)

Killed in action..... 8
Died of wounds..... 11
Died of disease..... 12
Died of accident..... 1
Died of illness..... 1
TOTAL KILLED IN ACTION..... 33

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Forty-four names appear on to-day's casualty list issued by the War Department. Eight men were killed in action, six died from wounds, twelve from disease, one died from accident, five were severely wounded and eleven were slightly wounded. The list follows:

KILLED IN ACTION.

LONG, PAUL H., sergeant.

JACKSON, ROBERT L., private, pneumonia.

KELLY, DANIEL E., private, intestinal obstruction.

SCHWABAUER, GEORGE, private, pneumonia.

BLATER, JOHN EASON, private, pneumonia.

WILLIAMS, ROBERT WELLS, private, dysentery.

WRIGHT, JOHNNIE, private, pneumonia.

DIED OF ACCIDENT.

KELLY, JOHN G., lieutenant.

SEVERELY WOUNDED.

GLOVER, EDWARD M., lieutenant.

OSTER, OLIVER W., corporal.

MAXWELL, WILLIAM M., mechanic.

HARDING, SCOTT W., private.

MCARD, JOHN E., private.

GRAHAM, JOHN H., lieutenant.

PENDLETON, GEORGE H., lieutenant.

LEITCH, HOWARD A., corporal.

WARREN, DUT A., corporal.

DICKELAND, ARTHUR, corporal.

NEALE, GRAHAM H., corporal.

SWEETSON, DONALD B., corporal.

JOLLY, HARRY O., private.

MCARD, JOHN E., private.

HERMANSON, GEORGE, private.

WEICHEL, PAUL E., private.

DIED OF DISEASE.

ELLIS, RICHARD H., sergeant, meningitis.

ADAMS, CHARLES, corporal, pneumonia.

FREEMAN, LLOYD T., cook, pneumonia.

SMITH, JOHN H., private, pneumonia.

CLARK, GRANT H., private, pneumonia.

HILMAN, ANTON, private, diphtheria.

of the lines of communication may interfere with feasibility of maneuver.

The review records the first unassisted American assault upon the Germans, the trench raid on the dawn of March 11, when the enemy was driven out and his position penetrated for a distance of 400 yards.

The Americans now are in the trenches along the line at five different points and are reported constantly active.

SHOCK TROOPS IN BIG GERMAN RAIDS

Attacks Around Verdun Are on Large Scale After Long Bombardment.

LONDON, March 18.—Germany is throwing her shock troops into action in France and Belgium, in what may be the last preliminary to the threatened great assault. If so the offensive is ill omened, for nowhere has the foe been able to obtain any advantage, while in several sections of the front he has paid dearly for his feints.

Too much greater than has been the recent fighting in France and Belgium. Especially severe were the attacks around Verdun, where the Germans, in a series of great assaults, have continued to make gains.

At this evening, the Germans yesterday delivered a series of strong blows near Verdun, and in the region of Bezonvaux. Big detachments penetrated the French positions at various points.

The French, however, rallied gallantly, and by a concentrated fire of tremendous magnitude drove the Teutons out, after inflicting heavy losses.

Germany's latest offensive, however, French statement announced the capture of prisoners in raids north of the Meuse, and in the region of Verdun.

Verdun continues to be the scene of every indication that the enemy is preparing another thrust in that sector. French forces have been moved to the north of Verdun, and are now approaching the region of Bezonvaux.

North of Verdun and on the right bank of the Fave, in the Vosges, there also have been severe engagements.

French Raiders Active.

French raiders also have been active. They penetrated the German lines at Bezonvaux, where a front of 1,700 yards to a depth of 800 yards. On the left bank of the Meuse 160 prisoners, including several officers, were taken Saturday night.

North of Verdun, and on both sides of La Bassee Canal the British guns have been exchanging heavy salvos with the Germans. In other regions there have been several successful raids by English and Colonial troops, a number of prisoners being taken. Severe casualties were inflicted in patrol encounters in the region of Zonnebeke.

The Hapume-Cambrai road and near Lens there has been serious German pressure. British units between Warneton and Hazebrouck also have been under intense attack.

The reorganized Belgian army is taking an increasing part in the war and promises to be even more active in the near future. Enemy storming detachments in the regions of Dixmude, Neuport and Mercken gained a footing at some points in the Belgian lines to-day, but were expelled by counter attack.

The important coast sector up to this held by the French has been taken over by the Belgians, says an Associated Press correspondent on the British front in Flanders.

Belgian Troops Doing Well.

That King Albert's new army has been able to assume this additional burden speaks highly for the condition of this comparatively small fighting machine, which has battled so valiantly from the beginning, says the correspondent.

A recent visit to the Belgian front by the correspondent learned that the Belgians had effected a great improvement in their organization during the winter months, and certainly the morale of troops and officers seems at the highest pitch. Lieut-Col. de Geyndrick, the Minister of War, informed the correspondent that it sometimes had been difficult to restrain the Belgian soldiers until the proper moment for action came.

The War Minister seemed to reflect the general voice of the army when he said: "Whenever the call comes we shall be waiting to respond with every atom of strength we have."

"I have strong hope that Field Marshal von Hindenburg soon will win for us complete victory on the western front," reads a message sent by Emperor William to the Pomeranian Provincial Council, as quoted in the *Local-Anzeiger* of Berlin.

A Vienna despatch to the *Yossische Zeitung* of Berlin says demobilization of three of the oldest Landsturm levies serving with the Austrian forces, consisting of men born in 1867, 1868 and 1869, will begin immediately and will be completed by May, October and December respectively.

OFFENSIVE SEEMS OFF.

American Observers Believe Germany Is Missing for Defence.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—American military observers have reached the conclusion that Germany's constant massing of men on the western front is for defence and that the long-heralded offensive never will materialize upon it.

It develops as a defensive measure against the growing pressure of the allied lines.

This view, held for weeks by some officers, is expressed officially to-day in the War Department's weekly review of operations at the battle front. Fresh German divisions are reported arriving in the west, the review says, and the density of the enemy forces has nearly reached the point where the congestion

BAKER IS DELIGHTED WITH AVIATION CAMP

Secretary of War Amazed by Extent of Preparatory Work.

SENDS WORD BY SWISS

Has Hundred Times as Much in U. S. as We Have in Her Hands.

By the Associated Press.

ON BOARD SECRETARY BAKER'S SPECIAL TRAIN IN FRANCE, March 17 (delayed).

Secretary of War Baker in leaving an aviation centre to-day said:

"Just before leaving America I investigated the progress of our aviation programme. I found our manufacturers enthusiastic as to the outcome. When they learn of the preparations which have been made in France for the utilization of the material which they send they will have a further incentive to speed up their efforts."

"Upon level fields which were without a single building when we laid out a camp of aviation, we have now a city of barracks, offices, shops and hangars, with a population of Americans entirely occupied as a training school for aviation. In this, as in all our other preparations in France, we have aimed at a force commensurate with our part in assisting the French and British in gaining the complete, unbroken mastery of the air, which is one of the prime requisites, if not the prime requisite, for victory."

The spirit of every man in this camp seems in keeping with the mission which brought him to France. The camps, appointments and organization are admirable. It is gratifying to learn from their French instructors that our young aviators are proving themselves daring, cool and skillful."

SECRETARY DECISIVE.

Baker Shows Tendency in France to Settle Question at Once.

By the Associated Press.

ON BOARD SECRETARY BAKER'S SPECIAL TRAIN IN FRANCE, Saturday, March 16 (delayed).—The American Secretary of War is making important decisions in France upon such questions as in his judgment require immediate action. He is gathering knowledge for future use upon many aspects of the situation of the American army, but problems pressing for a settlement he solves on the spot.

Thus to-day in the headquarters of one of the American aviation centres Secretary Baker inquired if all of the French aviation centres were ready to be first to complete their training in France, and if all of them had been commissioned. The chief of the aviation centre at St. Maurice, who had that all of them had not yet, because of reasons which he explained, had a chance to take their final training.

Mr. Baker went into the subject. He directed at the conclusion of the inquiry, with Gen. Pershing's approval, that aviation should have their commissions. He directed a day ahead of those issued in America to men who had entered the service later because these men had a right to authorize him to take and sell the commissions.

When the Secretary's train came into the aviation region the sky was darkly overcast and the clouds were of a busy gray color, which the aviation observers

any constitutes the finest background for seeing air work. Many monoplane and biplane awaited the Secretary's arrival upon the field, then with a rush one after another took the air, until toward the end of the morning a hundred machines were in flight, and every machine was driven by an American.

Individual aviators practiced maneuvers used in combat, such as reversing the directions of the flight by turning edgewise upon one wing, or spinning nose dives. Then there were evolutions in flight formation of fives, after that in squadrons of fifteen.

"We have shown everything we know and your young men have taken to the art with astonishing facility, as well as audacity, nerve and resource. The danger and difficulties fascinate and inspire them. I think it must be what you call the sporting spirit."

"Yes," said one of Mr. Baker's party. "Two many of these men are direct from our colleges and universities. They are football and baseball players."

Secretary Baker discussed with various of the aviators themselves the differences between the machines. He brought to the subject much knowledge of detail and unvaried interest. He spent hours talking with the men and examining with them the types of machines, some of which he saw for the first time.

The closing incident of the morning's air training was a contest and the capture of one plane when attacked. The Secretary of War watched with intense interest. He then visited the machine shops, the setting up shops and the storerooms. He had explained to him the school organization, which include eight classes, each with a separate camp. Sharp sporting rivalries exist among them.

St. Patrick's day was celebrated by six games of baseball among the twelve league clubs.

The Young Men's Christian Association and Red Cross have restaurants and club rooms in the aviation area, both admirably managed.

The Secretary of War, the conviction that America's aviation effort is already a powerful one, that it combines the best to be found in the French and British service, in aviation for the development, and that an organization has been created capable of schooling finely tempered air battalions. The aviation school in question has reached 97 per cent of its expected efficiency. Graduating classes are turned out with steady regularity because of the speed with which the students reach the level of competence. The Secretary of War, of course upon the amount of flying, which has been uncommonly abundant this spring.

MANY HURT IN BELFAST.

Rioting Not Checked Until Military Aid Called.

BELFAST, March 18.—In the rioting between a mob of Sinn Feiners and the police in the nationalist quarter of Belfast early Sunday hurley sticks, clubs and stones were the chief weapons, but some revolver shots were heard. The trouble lasted from midnight until 4 o'clock in the morning, and many persons, including some policemen, were sent to hospitals.

The Sinn Feiners had announced they would hold a meeting in St. Mary's Hall, a nationalist gathering place, but the authorities closed the hall. During Saturday Sinn Feiners were brought in from different parts of the country to begin imprisonment in the Belfast jail. Many sympathizers came along.

Prof. Edward de Valera, member of Parliament for East Clare and a Sinn Feiner, arrived in an automobile at midnight, accompanied by a bodyguard armed with hurley sticks, and others carrying blazing torches. The hall became a scene of confusion, and a vacant lot 100 yards from the hall. He had talked ten minutes when the police declared their intention to break up the crowd, numbering about 2,500.

HITS KAISER'S PURSE.

Palmer Plan to Sell Enemy Property Meets German Law.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Principal American holdings in Germany at present are said to be properties of the International Cash Register Company and the American Radiator Company. The latter information available here is that holdings of the Standard Oil Company gradually have been reduced until they are not so extensive now as they were before the war.

There are large investments of American life insurance companies in Germany, but these are affected by the security of German policy holders in these companies, it is thought they will not be molested.

The American law all American property may be taken. It is to meet this situation that A. Mitchell Palmer, alien property custodian, has asked Congress to authorize him to take and sell the holdings of great German interests in America. One of the moving reasons for this request is to break up the holdings of the great concern which have served an outpost of Kultur in the United States and as adjuncts of the German Government's military department.

In these properties it is understood the Kaiser himself, many of the leading Junkers and former Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg are largely interested.

The taking of American property in Germany, it is pointed out here, can have little practical effect because the balance is so overwhelmingly in favor of the United States. Conservative estimates say there is 100 times as much American property in Germany as there is American property in Germany.

HAS MILLION AT STAKE.

American Radiator Co. Owns Two Plants in Germany.

CHICAGO, March 18.—W. H. Hill, vice-president and treasurer of the American Radiator Company, to-night said that the company had two plants in Germany valued at about \$1,000,000.

The German Government placed a custodian in charge of each about a year ago, he said. Sixteen hundred men were employed in the plants before the war, he added.

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GERMAN BAKERS SUSPECTED.

Ground Glass Found in Bread in Wichita.

WICHITA, Kan., March 18.—Federal Agent Jackson of Topeka, here investigating ground glass in bread, stated to-day that he found five instances where such bread had been sold and that in each case the bread had come from the bakery of a German who had not been naturalized.

The Federal agent said he did not believe the baker was responsible for the glass, as it had been found in several instances of bread made by the same baker working for him of late who remained but a few days. The crust usually shows the glass. The German baker, who had been in the city for some time, had been sent to Kansas City for examination.

1823

"The Right Way is The Gas Way"

CONSOLIDATED GAS COMPANY OF NEW YORK

ORO. B. CORTELYOU, PRESIDENT.

DILLON PLEADS FOR HOME RULE BY IRISH

Warns Advocates of Republic They Are in Danger of Being Shot.

SEES CRISIS VERY NEAR

"Ireland Is on Eve of One of Most Momentous Struggles in Her History."